

September 16, 2005

TO: LEP Directors/Coordinators

FROM: Maria F. Lindia  
Office of Assessment & Accountability

RE: Clarification for "ACCESS for ELLs" and "W-APT" Assessments

Information regarding the Access Placement test was sent to you recently. It appears that a few districts need clarification regarding this assessment. We feel that it will be best to clarify it for everyone. As you know, Rhode Island is a member of the WIDA consortium. So far, three products have been developed for use in each of the 10 states within the consortium:

1. Access for ELLs, grades K-12 (to be fully administered in March of 2006).  
This is the annual test to measure the English language proficiency that will replace MAC II form B.
2. Standards for ESL students. The roll out took place in 2002. We hope that the standards have been fully implemented and teachers are providing their instruction based on these standards.
3. Screener/Placement Test.  
The new placement test is the W-APT. This test will replace the MAC II form A test. It must be used for appropriate placement of new students in ESL services.

Training for "ACCESS for ELLs" and "W-APT" will be offered on November 14-18 (information is forthcoming). However, you may download a training manual if you wish to use the test prior to the training. Also, we will be providing you with a training disc. For further information, you may call me at (401) 222-8494 or email at [maria.lindia@ride.ri.gov](mailto:maria.lindia@ride.ri.gov).

C: Todd Flaherty  
Mary Ann Snider  
District Testing Coordinators